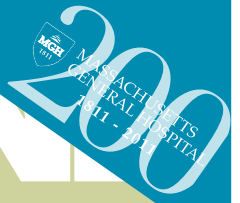


12.17.10

MGH HOTLINE

A PUBLICATION FOR EMPLOYEES AND STAFF OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL



'Tis the season *MGH celebrates holidays with annual receptions*

MGHERS EXCHANGED greetings for the season, enjoying festive treats and music during this year's holiday receptions, hosted by Peter L. Slavin, MD, MGH president. The annual receptions were held on the Main Campus Dec. 9 and Charlestown Navy Yard Dec. 8 for both day- and night-shift employees. This year, in addition to the traditional festivities, employees at the events received a copy of the MGH Bicentennial Calendar in celebration of the hospital's upcoming 200-year anniversary. ■



Shedding light on harmful effects of tobacco smoke

MASSGENERAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN (MGHfC) pediatrician-researcher Jonathan Winickoff, MD, MPH, FAAP, has been a vocal advocate of the health and protection of children from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke. Recently, he has made further progress in his efforts to shield children from tobacco and tobacco smoke exposure.

The senior author of a report in the January issue of *Pediatrics*, Winickoff explains that children living in multi-unit apartment buildings are at greater risk from second-hand smoke – even when no one smokes inside their own unit – compared with children who live in single-family houses. He and his colleagues found that apartment-dwelling children had a 45 percent higher level of cotinine, a common marker for tobacco exposure, in their systems.

“Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke is associated with a variety of illnesses, such as respiratory infections, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome,” says Winickoff. “We look forward to this study supporting universal smoke-free multi-unit housing. When landlords set a completely smoke-free policy, they will enjoy lower fire risk and insurance costs, lower clean-up costs between

tenants, and they will foster a healthier home for everyone in the building.”

In November, Winickoff also made headway toward the protection of children from tobacco when he addressed the Food and Drug Administration Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee on Nov. 18 in Washington D.C. Representing MGHfC and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), he shared new public opinion data showing widespread support for a ban on menthol cigarettes, refuting tobacco industry claims that menthol cigarettes should continue to be marketed and sold in low-income neighborhoods.

“It was wonderful to stand with MGHfC and the AAP in support of children’s health,” says Winickoff. “Highly addictive menthol cigarettes appeal to children and adolescents, so a ban on these products would be a major win.”



WINICKOFF



SOX SPIRIT: Red Sox players and coaches, from left, Bogar, seated, and Magadan, Johnson, Reddick, Lowrie and Wally the Green Monster visit with MGHfC patient Lataeya Green, age 8.

Red Sox Holiday Caravan stops at MassGeneral Hospital for Children

AS THE BOSTON RED SOX were making waves at Fenway Park with their off-season trades and signings, a few members of the team found time Dec. 9 to bring holiday cheer and smiles to the pediatric patients at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC).

Red Sox shortstop Jed Lowrie, outfielder Josh Reddick, hitting coach Dave Magadan, first base coach Ron Johnson and third base coach Tim Bogar stopped by the pediatric floors on Ellison 17 and 18, accompanied by team mascot Wally the Green Monster. MGHfC Child Life Specialists Sacha Field, MS, CCLS, and Anne Bouchard Pizzano, MS, CCLS, helped arrange the visit.

“The kids were so excited to meet the players and coaches,” says Field. “I have never seen so many patients up and ready to go before 10 am, especially the teens!”

The members of the Red Sox visited children in the playrooms on both floors, handing out Sox souvenirs such as Wally dolls, calendars, magazines, stickers and other collectibles. They also posed for photographs and participated in activities with the patients, such as coloring and reading.

“We are blessed to be in the game of baseball,” says Johnson. “To be able to bring a little bit of joy over from Fenway and to see those smiles on the faces of these kids during the holidays is really heartwarming.”

The group from the Red Sox also donned precaution gowns and visited patient rooms to see children who were unable to visit the play areas.

“The Red Sox players, coaches and staff were so kind and down-to-earth,” says Pizzano. “Some of the patients were nervous to meet the players, but they were immediately put at ease when the Sox started talking to them about everyday things.”

“Visits like these help break up the monotony of the routine for kids that are hospitalized,” adds Field. “We genuinely appreciate all the donations and outpourings of love that happen here every holiday season.” ■



NATIONAL RECOGNITION: Staff of the Geriatric Medicine Unit

EAP services and resources help balance eldercare and work

DURING HER 14-YEAR CAREER as administrative assistant at the MGH Department of Pathology, Carol Ann Gould – like thousands of other Americans – went through a challenging period as she juggled work while caring for her elderly parents. To make matters more complicated, Gould was in Boston while her father, who had Alzheimer’s disease, was in Amarillo, Texas. When her mother in Dallas was diagnosed with cancer, she took on caring for her as well.

“It was a very difficult time,” says Gould. “I had to tell my father that he no longer could use a car and that he would be moving to an assisted-living residence. While the stages of his illness became worse, my mother was diagnosed with cancer. It was one of the most trying times of my life.”

Gould describes the flood of emotions she experienced – anger, resentment, sadness, exhaustion and grief. She found it difficult to concentrate at work and began to suffer physically as well as emotionally from the stress. Thankfully, Gould found help managing her own health and emotions and the logistics of caring for her parents through the resources and support available at the Partners Employee Assistance Program (EAP). She met with an EAP consultant, who then referred her to Alzheimer’s disease expert Barbara Moscovitz, MSW, LICSW, program director of the MGH Geriatric Medicine Unit. Gould also attended the EAP monthly employee eldercare discussion group, facilitated by Moscovitz and eldercare expert Janet

Loughlin, LICSW, CEAP. Since 2005, the group has helped employees manage a healthy work and life balance while caring for an aging loved one. “We know that there are many employees in the workplace really struggling with caring for an elderly parent while working,” says Loughlin.

“In a safe, therapeutic setting, we provide expertise in eldercare and access to resources – such as the monthly employee eldercare discussion group – where employees can share their experiences, support one another and find helpful information for their circumstances.”

Gould credits the group with providing her the support, resources and professional assistance she needed. “The employee eldercare discussion group was so helpful to me,” says Gould. “There were so many different employees of all job roles – vice presidents, physicians, nurses, administrative staff – and we all were going through the same thing. Often group members who had helpful

information shared it with the group, and the meetings gave us an opportunity to support one another when it was difficult to focus on work.”

In addition to the group meetings, the EAP offers one-on-one counseling with eldercare experts. Individual consultations are confidential and free. The EAP office is located at 175 Cambridge St., Suite 320. For more information, access www.eap.partners.org or call 617-726-6976 or 1-866-724-4EAP. ■



ELDERCARE SUPPORT: From left, Moscovitz, Gould and Loughlin

Handmade pillowcases bring holiday cheer

WHILE HAVING VISIONS of sugarplum fairies, MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) patients will be resting their heads on colorful handmade pillowcases they helped sew on Dec. 11 in the Ellison 18 Playroom with volunteers Marie Nader and Jane Cunniffe of ConKerr Cancer: A Case for Smiles. The nonprofit organization aims to brighten the rooms of hospitalized children by making and delivering decorated pillowcases. Originally focused on pediatric cancer patients, ConKerr Cancer today provides pillowcases and smiles to all young patients who are hospitalized.

SEW MUCH FUN: Cunniffe, left, and MGHfC patient Duncan Miles, age 6



NCQA recognizes MGH Senior Health

MGH SENIOR HEALTH, a practice within the Geriatric Medicine Unit, has been recognized as a Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). A medical home is a model that strives to strengthen the caregiver-patient relationship and improve care while reducing costs by replacing episodic care with coordinated long-term care.

NCQA designation indicates that the practice meets national standards for delivering high-quality care and utilizes systematic, patient-centered, coordinated management processes. Senior Health received the highest designation possible, level three, and is the first practice in the Partners system to be officially cited as a medical home by the NCQA.

“The medical home model holds great promise

for improving quality while reducing costs,” says Barbara Roberge, PhD, NP, geriatric nurse practitioner and director of Quality and Safety for Senior Health. “We’re thrilled to have received certification. It has allowed us to reflect on how to further improve, and toward that aim, we’ve been sharing our experiences with other primary care practices at the MGH.” ■

TALKING FOOTBALL:
Hannah, left, with MGH Cancer
Center patient Donald Amadon



Hall of Fame visit to MGH Cancer Center

HE'S CONSIDERED one of the best linemen ever to play professional football, and on Dec. 2, former New England Patriots player and National Football League Hall of Fame member John Hannah helped brighten the day of patients and employees at the MGH Cancer Center when he stopped by for a visit. Talking with patients at the Infusion Unit on Yawkey 8, Hannah shared football stories and his perspective on this year's Patriots team as he signed autographs.

"It was great to have John come visit our patients," says Theresa McDonnell, ACNP-BC, Infusion Unit nursing director. "Chemotherapy treatment can require patients to spend hours on end in our outpatient clinic. Visits like John's really help to pass the time, especially when patients have the opportunity to chat with a Hall of Fame football player."

The visit was Hannah's second to the MGH, having also visited earlier this fall. ■

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mass General Imaging-Worcester

Mass General Imaging's newest location at 385 Grove St. in Worcester is now open. Mass General Imaging-Worcester offers high-speed computed tomography, digital screening and diagnostic mammography, general ultrasound and digital X-ray. For more information, visit www.massgeneralimaging.org/worcester.

Nominations for the one hundred

Nominations are now being accepted for the MGH Cancer Center's **the one hundred**, an annual fundraiser that honors 100 individuals and groups leading the way in the fight against cancer. Nominees do not have to be MGH employees. To nominate someone, visit www.theonehundred.org. The deadline to submit a nomination is Dec. 31. All MGH employees who submit a nomination will be eligible to win a raffle for a Flip Cam. The final drawing will be Jan. 3. The event will be held June 1, 2011. For more information, call 617-643-6781 or e-mail theonehundred@partners.org.

MGH Senior HealthWISE

MGH Senior HealthWISE is offering a free hypertension screening for seniors ages 60 and older Dec. 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West End Library, 151 Cambridge St. For more information or to register, call 617-724-6756.

Benson-Henry wellness program for women

The Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine will offer "Taking Care of Ourselves," a four-week wellness program for women beginning Jan. 6 at noon. Led by Leslee Kagan, MS, NP, director of women's health programs at the Benson-Henry Institute, the one-hour, weekly sessions will teach participants strategies for coping with the stresses of daily life. The classes will be held in the Yawkey Center, and the cost of the program is \$85. For more information or to register, contact Maureen Gilbert at 617-643-6067 or mgilbert@partners.org.

On-site Spanish classes

MGH Training and Workforce Development, in partnership with the HablEspañol Language Center, is hosting beginner-, intermediate- and advanced-level Spanish classes beginning the week of Jan. 23. Each class meets one evening a week for 10 weeks from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The \$150 course fee, which includes all materials, is due by Jan. 10. To request enrollment in the Wednesday beginner class, access <https://libridge.partners.org>. Select the "HRMS Production" link, and then navigate to Self Service > Employee > Tasks > Request Training Enrollment. Click the "Search by Course Code" link, and enter "MGHSPB" in capital letters. To request enrollment in the intermediate- or advanced-level

classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays, e-mail mghtraining@partners.org for information on completing a brief language assessment test.

IN GENERAL

Jesse B. Jupiter, MD, of the Department of Orthopaedics, was chosen an honorary member of the Royal College of Orthopaedic Surgeons in Thailand.

Tatsuo Kawai, MD, PhD, of the Transplant Center, received the International Transplantation Society-Roche New Key Opinion Leader Award for the highest scoring abstract from the New Key Opinion Leader Group. The award was presented to Kawai at the 23rd International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Vancouver, Canada.

William U. Shipley, MD, a member of the MGH Radiation Oncology Department and Andreas Soriano Professor of Radiation Oncology at HMS, was presented with the 2010 Jack Colbert Memorial Award from the Massachusetts Prostate Cancer Coalition on Nov. 17 in Cambridge. The award recognizes Shipley, who has provided care for men with genitourinary cancers at the MGH for more than 35 years, for significantly advancing the fight against prostate cancer.